

Henniker, N.H.

History of our Farm on South Road, Henniker, N.H.

Almost one hundred and fifty years ago Thomas Pingree of Henniker, N.H. settled in Henniker, Me. and purchased land and built a cabin where the 10 room Farm House now stands. He brought his family as far as Heads Corner in East-Henniker, and they remained there with friends until Thomas blazed a trail down to where he built the cabin. In the shed there is a large flat stone where he built the fireplace to warm the cabin and cook the meals. According to the original deed, dated July 3<sup>rd</sup> 1801, Thomas Pingree purchased 100 hundred acres of land bordering on Granger Pond in Henniker, for the sum of "40 Pounds", or \$300.00. Henniker was at that time part of "York County", of the Commonwealth seal is watermarked into the deed. In 1814 he purchased an adjoining tract for the sum of \$150.00; another tract of 122 acres for the sum of \$255.00; In 1817 another tract of 100 or more acres for \$400.00; and as the years went by, still more acres of land - Thomas Pingree raised 14 sons to till these acres, and some of his property still remains in his descendants hands - As closely as we can determine, he built himself a new and much larger house in 1816.

With 10 large rooms - which now stands on what is known as South Road in Glenmark - This house was owned by the Pingree descendants for many years - Then one of the Pingree girls married a John Kezar and she died and he had the place mortgaged so much, he had to give it up to Arthur Jack who held the mortgages - Alvina and Jesse Kenison wanted a farm to raise their family of (3) children, Rachel, Olive and Lawrence and they owned a new home in Glenmark Village. Arthur Jack traded the farm and 30 acres of land for the Kenisons new home. That was in 1935 and they owned it until 1947 and sold it to George L and his son Kenneth Kenison that lost their home in the Haley neighborhood in Brownfield, Maine the fall of the 1947 Forest Fire. They owned the farm until 1958 and in the meantime George L. the Father died so Kenneth the son and his Mother Alvina sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Foster Leland and Kenneth and his Mother went to California for a few months. Mr. & Mrs. Leland own it as of this date, March, 25<sup>th</sup> 1973.

Many alterations have been made from time to time - but the spirit of this home still prevails.  
The Bedroom floors up stairs were all hand hewn

One of the floors was shiplapped, that is they cut the boards the shape of the tree and in laying it they laid a small end and the next board they laid the large end beside the small end. The Woodwork in this room was painted the Old Red Milk Paint. The boards at the top of the front stairs in the upper Hall were  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 ft. wide, all hand hewn. The finish was all hand hewn, the corner Posts in living-room were the same. Some of the original Window glass with its waves and large bubbles, can still be seen - Many of the panes have a weathered, purplish color. The Foundation walls are of split stone and double thickness. The Cellar floor is paved with huge granite split-stone and (2) large stone arches that held the chimneys one on each end of the cellar. We used them to store vegetables and potatoes in winter. Some hard working man spent 15 days splitting these stones and was paid \$15.00 for his work by Thomas Pingree - Pingree's taxes on all his property in 1816 amounted to \$3.44. According to a contract between Thomas Pingree and Timothy G. Hadley, dated January 26-1835 Thomas agreed to log ~~log~~ for said Hadley with "6 oxen" and "3 men" and furnish all necessary sleds.

Chains, and Axes, and board his oxen and men and begin as soon as necessary Camps can be prepared and work as long as sledging continues good and the said Hadley agrees on his part to be at all the expense of building the Camps and to pay said Pingree (in June next) five shillings per day <sup>11<sup>1</sup>/20</sup> for each person and each pair of oxen for each and every day that they work from the day they start from home until they finish work in Woods.

In September of 1836 Pingree indentured Marshall Mc Linus, a pauper child, son of John Mc Linus, an inhabitant of the "Said Hiram, Maine" as an apprentice and agreed to teach the boy the "Art Trade" or mystery of farming, the said Marshall after the manner an apprentice, to dwell with and serve the said Thomas Pingree from the day of the date thereof, until the first day of January, which will be in the year of our Lord 1839, at which time the said apprentice if he be living, will be "14 yrs old". And the said Pingree, on his part, doth hereby promise, covenant and agree to teach and instruct the said apprentice or cause him to be taught and instructed in the Art, trade or calling of a Farmer by the best way or means he can; and

(5)

Also to teach and instruct the said apprentice,  
or cause him to be taught and instructed to  
read and write, so far as the winter school in  
his district will go, if the said apprentice be  
capable to learn; and shall well and faithfully  
find and provide for the said apprentice, good  
and sufficient, meat, drink, clothing and lodging  
and other necessaries fit and convenient for  
such an apprentice during the term aforesaid.

At the Kennebunk Hotel and Stage House, Mr.

Pingree spent .25 cents for tea - .75 cents for  
Supper and lodging, and .25 cents for horse  
keeping. N.M. Lovle was then Proprietor of the Hotel.

Abijah Garham invented a stump pulling machine and  
for the sum of \$50.00 Thomas Pingree acquired the full and  
exclusive right of making, constructing using and

Yielding to others to be used, Abijah Garham improved  
Stump machine within the Town of Kennebunk in the County  
and State aforesaid; In 1838 Thomas Pingree constructed  
another house, close to his own, and paid Leonard

Henry \$33.75 for 2 days work on the house, grinding paint  
116 light sash, one pitchfork, fifteen days work at  
Painting and for a helper for this latter work -

Another expenditure incurred in the construction of

the house was \$7.19 for one hundred and fifteen pounds  
 115 lbs. of Nails. Speaking of price at that time, 100 lbs.  
 of Codfish Cost \$4.00, 6 lbs. Tobacco \$1.00, 10 lbs Coffee \$1.00  
 a barrel of Salt Pork \$24.00. He spent .88 cents for  
 18 China Plates, 67 Cents for 2 China Chambers,  
 \$4.00 for 4 bushels of Rock Salt; \$3.50 for 6 gallons  
 of Molasses, \$2.33 for 4 hoes, \$3.73 for 3 scythes,  
 \$11.75 for 28 lbs of Leather's and \$1.33 for one looking  
 glass. Walter Cartier dealer in Furniture of all  
 descriptions, Looking glass, Leather Beds, Mattresses,  
 Willow and Wooden Ware, at C No. 19 Exchange St.  
 Portland, Maine, was the merchant. Again he paid  
 "Smith & Boston" dealers in Furniture in Bridgton,  
 Maine, \$12.00 for a Bureau, \$3.50 for a  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ft. table,  
 \$5.00 for 2 wash tables, \$6.50 for 2 Bedsteads,  
 \$8.00 for 9 Chairs, \$3.00 for one Rocking chair, At that  
 time 11 gallons of New England Rum Cost \$5.50.

At times, the hand of the Law rested on Pingree's  
 shoulders, "Commonwealth of Massachusetts York SS,  
 To Thomas Pingree of Henmark, Maine in the County  
 of Oxford, Yeoman - Greetings - We command you  
 that you appear at our next Court of Common Pleas;  
 to be holden at Alfred within and for our County  
 of York. Aforesaid on the first Monday of January next.

then and there to answer to James Woodman and James Woodman Jr. both of Buxton in our said County, Yeoman, in a plea of covenant broken as is fully set forth in our Writ of attachment, which plea the said Yeoman commenced against you, to be heard and tried at the said Court; and your goods or estate are attached to the value of One thousand and forty dollars \$1040.00 for security to satisfy the judgement which the said Yeoman may recover upon the aforesaid trial. Fail not of appearance at your peril. That was in 1814 Oxford SS, Hennock, Maine July 5<sup>th</sup> 1882.

This day Thomas Pingree appeared before me Cyrus Ingalls, Esquire, one of the Justices of the Peace of the County of Oxford and complained of himself of breaking the Peace with Nathaniel Widden of said State of Maine and paid a fine of \$1.00 to said State. Said assault committed on July 4, 1822 in said Town of Hennock. Cyrus Ingalls, Justice of Peace, In 1827 Thomas Pingree paid William P. Fessenden a total of \$36.70 for legal services involved in a dispute between himself and a Mr. Warren and another between Daniel Pingree and a Mr. Whitina. His accounts were

Many and Varied, but two more interesting payments were to a Mr. Brackett \$2.25 for Schooling, Theodore Pingree the present year to a Mr. Gibson, Post master .52 cents for postage on Mailing Sun from February 26<sup>th</sup> 1840 to February 26<sup>th</sup> 1841. Thomas Pingree passed away in 1848 and he rests here on the farm he cleared.

He must have loved this place for no man spends so large a part of his life's blood and till upon a piece of ground without its becoming a part of him. His resting here in the Family Cemetery here on the farm is as it should be. It is a credit to his descendants that they maintain this family Cemetery -

Alvina & Jesse Kenison  
owned this farm from 1935 to 1947

Written and donated by Alvina Kenison